



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,786	12/04/2003	Duck Young Jung	SUN-0034	6887
23413 7590 12/24/2008 CANTOR COLBURN, LLP 20 Church Street 22nd Floor Hartford, CT 06103				
EXAMINER PETERSON, CHRISTOPHER K				
ART UNIT 2622		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 12/24/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

usptopatentmail@cantorcolburn.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/727,786

Applicant(s)

JUNG, DUCK YOUNG

Examiner

CHRISTOPHER K. PETERSON

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7 and 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Amendment After Non-Final Rejection filed on 9/2/2008 has been received and made of record. Examiner notes that the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5. Claims 1, 3 - 5, 7, and 8 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. **Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsushima (US Patent Pub. # 2003/0016299) in view of Araki (US Patent # 5,278,659) and further in view of Okino (US Patent # 5,371,539).**

As to claim 1, Matsushima (Fig. 2) teaches an image signal processing system comprising:

- an image sensor (CCD 6) for receiving an image of a subject in a light form under the control of a shutter control signal (digital shutter value) to generate analog signals (Para 56). Matsushima teaches

the digital shutter value for the CCD (6) is determined by the signal processing circuit (10) (Para 56)

- a variable gain amplifier (automatic gain control circuitry (AGC) 8) for amplifying output signals of the image sensor (CCD 6) under the control of a gain control signal to maximize dispersion of the analog signals (Para 56).
- a first A/D converter (A/D 9) for receiving the output signals of the variable gain amplifier (8) and converting the received output signals into digital signals (Para 29 and 30);
- an image data processor (video signal processing circuit 10 and microcomputer 16) for receiving the output signals of the first A/D converter (9) and generating the gain control signal (variable control of AGC) and providing the generated shutter control signal (digital shutter value) to the image sensor (6) (Para 29 - 33 and 56).
Matsushima teaches the video processing circuit 10 are switched by exchanging data with the microcomputer 16, and the circuit 10 can output exposure information, focus information, white balance information, and auto-focus information of a CCD signal to the microcomputer 16 as needed (Para 33 and 34).
- wherein the gain control signal are generated by using the output signals of the first A/D converter (9) (Para 29).

Matsushima does not teach a movement value, a second A/D converter, or the shutter control signal is generated by the output signals of the second A/D

Art Unit: 2622

converter. Okino teaches a motion detecting circuit which receives the digital video signal calculates correlative values for each of a plurality of blocks constituting a whole screen according to a representative point matching method. A microcomputer calculates motion vectors of respective blocks on the basis of correlative value data from the motion detecting circuit and an average motion vector thereof, and calculates "increase", "passing degree" and "variation". Okino (Fig. 1) teaches an image data processor (microcomputer 26) for receiving the output signals of the first A/D converter (18) to find a movement value (positional and correlative values data) (Col. 4, lines 40 – 54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a motion detecting circuit as taught by Okino to the image sensing apparatus of Matsushima, because a picture stabilization with accuracy can be implemented and unintentional movement of a picture or image can be effectively prevented (Col. 2, lines 30 – 63 of Okino).

Matsushima in view of Okino do not teach a second A/D converter or the shutter control signal is generated by the output signals of the second A/D converter. Araki reference teaches an image pickup device and a shutter speed control circuit for controlling a shutter speed of the image pickup device, the shutter speed control circuit is comprised of a circuit for generating a sensor gate pulse in accordance with a vertical scanning timing so as to output an accumulated charge in the image pickup device, a circuit for generating a saw tooth signal being reset to a predetermined voltage level (Abstract). Araki (Fig. 3) teaches an image data processor (CPU 15) for receiving the output signals of

Art Unit: 2622

the second A/D converter (14) the shutter control signal (shutter speed control circuit), and providing the generated shutter control signal to the image sensor (CCD 1) (Col. 4, line 61 – Col. 5, line 6). Araki (Fig. 3) also shows the A/D converter (14) receives the output signals of the image sensor (1) (Col. 4, lines 29 – 60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided an A/D with shutter control circuit as taught by Araki to the image sensing apparatus of Matsushima in view of Okino, because exposure can be controlled at high accuracy even when the shutter speed is very high (Col. 3, lines 15 – 18 of Araki).

As to claim 5, this claim differs from claim 1 only in that the limitation “a direct current offset controller” is additionally recited. The direct current offset controller is connected between the CCD and the variable control amplifier. The Matsushima reference teaches a clamp / CDS (7) which is connected to the output of the CCD (6) and the input of the auto-gain control (AGC (8)). Matsushima teaches a direct current offset controller (clamp / CDS 7) for controlling direct current offsets of output signals of the image sensor (CCD 6) under the control of an offset control signal (clamp level) (Para 29). Matsushima teaches that the clamp level can be changed by the microcomputer (16) (Para 29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a direct current offset controller as taught by Matsushima to the image pickup device of Fujimori, because a clamp / CDS removes reset noise from the image data and provides an enhanced image quality.

5. Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsushima (US Patent Pub. # 2003/0016299) in view of Araki (US Patent # 5,278,659), further in view of Okino (US Patent # 5,371,539), and further in view of Shiga (US Patent Pub # 2005/0062874).

As to claim 3, Fujimori teaches the limitation "variable gain amplifier". Fujimori does not teach a variable gain amplifier is a sample-and-hold amplifier architecture. Shiga (see fig. 1) teaches a variable gain amplifier (4) as a sample-and-hold amplifier architecture. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a variable gain amplifier with a sample-and-hold amplifier architecture taught by Shiga to the variable gain amplifier of Fujimori in view of Matsushima, because the use of a sample and hold / gain control circuit is advantageous in that it does not give rise to such deterioration of a signal or decrease of the information amount of image data (Para 0105 of Shiga).

As to claim 7, this claim differs from claim 3 only in that the claim 3 depends on claim 1 whereas claim 7 depends on claim 5. Thus claim 7 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 3 above.

1. Claims 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsushima (US Patent Pub. # 2003/0016299) in view of Araki (US Patent # 5,278,659), further in view of Okino (US Patent # 5,371,539), and further in view of Nagata (US Patent # 6,366,228).

As to claim 4, Fujimori teaches the limitation "A/D converter". Fujimori does not teach an A/D converter is configured of a plurality of analog comparators. Nagata (see fig. 8) teaches an A/D converter configured of a plurality of analog comparators (CMP1 - 4) (Col. 12, lines 24 - 53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided an A/D converter with a plurality of analog comparators taught by Nagata to the A/D converter of Fujimori, because the use of analog comparators reduces the manufacturing cost and power (Col. 18, lines 43 - 55).

As to claim 8, this claim differs from claim 4 only in that the claim 4 depends on claim 1 whereas claim 8 depends on claim 5. Thus claim 8 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 4 above.

Conclusion

2. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory

Art Unit: 2622

action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER K. PETERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1704. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 6:30 - 4:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tran Sinh can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 2622

/C. K. P./

Examiner, Art Unit 2622

17 December 2008

/Sinh N Tran/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622